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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,918	09/29/2003	Satoru Yamamoto	CANO:092	7356
7590	12/15/2004		EXAMINER	
ROSSI & ASSOCIATES P.O. Box 826 Ashburn, VA 20146-0826			NGO, HOANG X	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2852	

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/673,918	YAMAMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner Hoang Ngo	Art Unit 2852	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 13 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 and 6-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4 and 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/29/03</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3 and 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakazato et al.

Nakazato et al disclose an image forming apparatus comprising an image-forming unit 3 (Fig. 1) including an image carrier 21 having latent images formed thereon, an electrostatic charger 22 that charges the image carrier with a predetermined polarity, a developing device 23 to form a toner image, and an endless belt 41 onto which the toner image is transferred; a plurality of image adjusting devices 125 that adjust image forming conditions of the image forming unit including a first image adjusting device 125 and a second image adjusting device 121 (Col. 7, lines 14-25); a detection pattern forming device 124 that controls the image forming unit to form predetermined detection patterns (i.e. patch images, Col. 8, lines 7-14) on the endless belt; a detecting device that detects the detection patterns formed on the endless belt by a quantity of reflection light from the endless belt (S313f, Fig. 9); a correction device that corrects the detection patterns detected by the detecting device 124; wherein the first image adjusting device adjusts one of the image forming conditions (i.e. development bias generation part, Fig. 2) of the image forming unit based on the detection patterns; the second image

adjusting device adjusts another one of the image forming conditions (i.e. electrifying bias generation part, Fig. 2) of the image forming unit; and the detecting device detects the quantity of reflection light from said endless belt in timing synchronous with the adjustment of the other one of the image forming conditions by the second image adjusting device (Col. 10, lines 5-24).

Nakazato et al further disclose the detecting device detects density patches formed on the endless belt as the predetermined detection patterns and the first image adjusting device adjusts the one of the image forming conditions based on the detected density patches to adjust density of an image to be formed (Col. 7, lines 25-44); the first image adjusting device carries out one of image density control that maintains respective maximum densities of a plurality of predetermined colors constant and image density control that maintains gradation characteristics of halftone linear with respect to an image signal obtained by reading an image on an original (Col. 12, lines 59-65 & Col. 22, lines 31-34); The detecting device detects the quantity of reflection light in timing different from timing which the image forming condition is adjusted by the image adjusting device (Col. 9, lines 22-33); the endless belt is an intermediate transfer belt (Col. 11, line 57).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 13 is allowed.
4. Claims 4 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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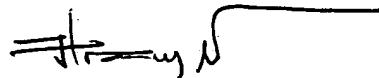
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior art of record teaches the second image adjusting device comprising a device for rotating the endless belt or an image writing position adjusting device.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang Ngo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2138. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00am - 2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on (571) 272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Hoang Ngo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

Hxn

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